



Project Title: **Sugpiaq Collections of the Kunstkamera *and* Telling Our Stories: Sugpiaq Collections of the Kunstkamera and the Cape Alitak Petroglyph Survey**

Cooperative Agreement: **H9911090050**

In a little over a year, the extensive Sugpiaq collections of the Russian Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (MAE or Kunstkamera), St. Petersburg will be widely available to an English speaking audience. These collections are some of the oldest and best preserved from all corners of the Alutiiq world. To share these objects with the public, the Alutiiq Museum is currently working with the MAE and the University of Alaska Press, to develop a full color collections catalog. This publication will feature more than 400 objects with close up color photos, provenance data, and accompanying historical essays. Readers will learn about the history of the Kunstkamera's collecting activities in Alaska, as well as the cultural value of the collections to Alutiiq people.

With text and photos developed for the project, the MAE published a Russian language edition of the catalog this past summer. Now work is underway on the English edition. In October, the University of Alaska Press signed an agreement to publish the manuscript with the MAE. The Press plans to release the catalog in February of 2012. The manuscript is currently in the peer review process and will move into editing and design in the spring of 2011.

Lois Fields, an Alutiiq woman fluent in Russian, translated the catalog into English, working with its Russian authors. The Alutiiq Museum, who initiated the project and shepherded its development during three visits to St. Petersburg, completed fundraising for the publication. Contributions from Koniag, Inc., the Alutiiq Heritage Foundation, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the Rasmuson Foundation, Perry Eaton, and a grant from the CIRI Foundation will make it possible to produce the nearly 500 page book and sell it at a price under \$30.

Behind the scenes, the museum continues to create finding aids for the thousands of photographs taken in Russia in association with the project. Registrar Marnie Leist is organizing the photo archive and documenting its contents to create research tools for artists, students, and scholars. The goal of the archive is to make additional details of the MAE's collections accessible to those who wish to study Alutiiq material culture. Many of the objects pictured in the catalog are photographed from additional views in the archive.

With support from a second NPS Shared Beringian Heritage grant, the process of exploring Alutiiq heritage and sharing Russian collections is also being captured on film with a series of vodcasts – 3 to 11 minute video podcasts. The first set of short films features archaeological investigations of Alutiiq heritage focused on the Cape Alitak petroglyphs. The films are available on YouTube and the Alutiiq Museums' web site. The second set, to be filmed in the spring of 2011, will feature Alutiiq basket weaving. They will focus on the impact of Russian collections on Alutiiq weavers who traveled to St. Petersburg with Executive Director Sven Haakanson in January of 2010.